Issue 251

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress.com

June 2024

Spectacular Southern Lights



We all know the Windermere, Dilston, Swan Bay area is a great place to live, and this was especially so at the start of May, when, around the 11th and 12th the night was lit up by a show like no other in recent years. Although auroras can sometimes be seen from the local areas, this May experience was exceptional, being triggered by the first extreme geomagnetic storm in 20 years.

Sometimes the spectacular colours in photographs of auroras are the result of considerable photographic manipulation, but the auroras at the beginning of May were visible in all their splendour even with the naked eye. Some people were lucky enough to view the lights from the comfort of their own yard, others took the opportunity to



gather at the local jetties in Windemere and Hillwood. I did hear of one person who experienced some electrical interference on some home appliances at the time, but he was not sure if this was just coincidental.



The only downside for us is that we were interstate at the time, the dulled southern lights seen from a large city were not comparable to the phenomena displayed locally and made us wish we were home!

If you are interested in seeing auroras and would like to know the best time to view them in the future, a useful resource is the web site sws.bom.gov.au under the tab 'Aurora'

Many thanks to John Gilmour, Chelsea Hill and Carol Warren who gave us permission to use their footage of the aurora from vantage points around Windermere, Hillwood and Mount Direction. Apologies to others who offered more photos, unfortunately the space was limited.





CHANGING OF THE GUARD



From the August edition, Smoke Signals will have a new Editor, with the retirement of present Editor Tony Walker who is leaving the district.

Tony was Editor from 2003 to 2008 and again from 2019 to the present.

The new Editor will be Peter Mulholland of Windermere.

Peter, who should be regarded as Dr. Mulholland as he has a PhD in rural medicine (but prefers just Peter), recently retired two years ago after an almost 40-year career in rural medicine, first as a registered nurse then as a paramedic.

For the eight years prior to retirement, he was a Station Officer and Intensive Care Paramedic with Ambulance Tasmania in Scottsdale. Peter's family moved to Tasmania in 1964 and his father was a Postmaster in Cressy, Bothwell and Hobart before then spending 20 years in Victoria.

Peter's sporting specialty is archery where he has been competing locally, nationally and internationally since 1977. He has been State Champion in both Victoria and Tasmania and in the early 1990s held every national record in compound archery.

He has always had a mechanical bent and volunteers regularly at the National Motor Museum in Launceston. He is the proud owner of a red 1949 Morris Minor Tourer.

He has a strong interest in woodwork and is an active member of the East Tamar Mens' Shed at Dilston.

He and his wife Edwina live in Windermere and have two sons living in Victoria.

With past editor Jon Hosford contributing Birds of the East Tamar and Tony Walker adding the History Page, perhaps Smoke Signals will soon have Cars of the East Tamar.

At all events, volunteering is clearly in Peter's blood and we thank him for taking on the responsibility to keep Smoke Signals informing and entertaining our East Tamar community.

Over 250 editions we have grown from a small A5 leaflet circulating to 300 homes, to a 16 page bimonthly full colour publication delivered to 900 homes and with a healthy on line circulation. This has been made possible by the generous support of local MPs Jim Cox, Brian Wightman and now Michael Ferguson, and we thank them for their support. In 2012 we added Hillwood to our circulation area, so we now cover a large part of the East Tamar.

Smoke Signals is produced entirely by volunteers and all proceeds from advertising go towards community projects. My thanks go to the present production and distribution team, Margaret Wynne, George and Jenny Chandler and Jon Hosford and to all our deliverers who ensure Smoke Signals gets to your mail box.

Tony Walker Editor

THANKS TONY

In the 'changing of the guard' a big thank you must go to Tony for his past work as editor of Smoke Signals. Putting up his hand for the role in 2003 and then unfortunately stepping aside in 2008 due to ill health, his dedication to Smoke Signals shone through upon again taking up the editorial role from 2019 to present. Accumulating over 10 years contribution at various stages, Tony has been instrumental in advancing development of the publication. Hs front page articles and history pages have kept locals interested and informed about local issues both present and past. Tony will continue contributing to Smoke Signals with additions to the history pages. The committee of Smoke Signals are sure that all our local readers will join in thanking Tony for his time as editor and wish both he and his wife Sue the best for their future plans.

Sparkling wine has become one of Tasmania's greatest strengths, both as an export and to attract visitors to our vineyards.

Our unique climate makes Tasmania the ideal place to produce wine grapes for sparkling wine, and the state has been called the "Champagne of the Southern Hemisphere".

Specifically, the industry is centred east of the Tamar, from Pipers River (Arras) and Pipers Brook (Jansz and Pipers Brook) to Lebrina (Clover Hill and Apogee).

It all started 40 years ago. In the early 80s, the great French Champagne house Moet at Chandon was looking for new world investments and assessed northern Tasmania as the best place in Australia to produce sparkling wine.

Ultimately they chose to establish Domaine Chandon in the Yarra Valley of Victoria, primarily because of its proximity to the large population centre of Melbourne. The first Tasmanian venture was initiated by Graham Jean-Baptiste Lecallion, Graham Wiltshire Wiltshire who had established the Heemskerk vineyard



Launch of Jansz 28-10-91 Jean-Claude Rouzard, Mark Fesq,

at Pipers Brook back in 1975. Some varieties were proving hard to ripen at Heemskerk, and by the early 80s Wiltshire recognised that the conditions were ideal for sparkling wine.

Bill Fesq, a Melbourne wine importer, was a partner in Heemskerk and happened to be the Australian agent for the French Champagne house Louis Roederer.

Negotiations began, and in March 1985, the Premier, Robin Grey announced a joint venture between Heemskerk and Roederer with the development of a 25 hectare vineyard purely for the production of premium sparkling wine. Their first wine, Jansz Cuvee 1989, was released in 1991.

The relationship with Roederer foundered and Jansz was briefly owned by Joe Chromy and Pipers Brook before being sold to present owners Yalumba under the capable leadership of Robert Hill Smith.

The second sparkling vineyard, also with a French connection, was Clover Hill at Lebrina, established in 1987 by Taltarni Wines managing director and winemaker Dominique Portet. They released their first sparkling wine in 1992.

In 1999, Pipers Brook founder Andrew Pirie launched his own sparkling wine Pirie 1995.

By this time Australia's leading sparkling winemaker Ed Carr of BRL Hardy had been buying more and more Tasmanian grapes for his premium Arras brand and this was certainly a factor in Hardy's purchase of the old Rochecombe vineyard at Pipers River in 2001, which was to become the centre for the Arras brand, making the East Tamar Australia's premier region for premium sparkling wine.

BIRDS OF THE TAMAR

Jon Hosford

Crescent honeyeater – (Philidonyris pyrrhopterus)

This honeyeater is commonly found in Tasmanian highlands feeding noisily and rapidly amongst flowering eucalypts in the summer months. In the winter months it seeks more sheltered habitats, such as gardens of homes within the Tamar Valley.

It has a longish curved bill and a fine black/white eyebrow and a black wishbone stripe on a white breast. The yellow panel on its wing is dominant along with its high-pitched jagged 'eejik' call. This tends to be softer in the winter months. The Crescent Honeyeater is usually easily distinguished by the dark crescents on its breast and its yellow wing patches, as well as its distinctive calls. In flight, adult males may be mistaken for the New Holland Honeyeater, P. novaehollandiae

When these birds visit home gardens they are in search of nectar from plants such as Waratah and Banksia.

Planting local species of native trees and shrubs in your garden will certainly attract native birds.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

TASMANIAN ARBORETUM APRIL

Fourteen Garden Club members visited the Tasmanian Arboretum, located in Euganeena, near Devonport, to view the early autumn colours. Garden Club visited the Arboretum in May last year, and it was interesting to note that the autumn colours had been richer and more abundant at that time. All were delighted to see the platypuses ducking and diving once again.





Two views of the Founders Lake at the Arboretum



CLARENDON HOUSE - MAY

Clarendon House at Nile is a beautiful National Trust property with well-maintained (by volunteers!) gardens including a walled garden. The property consists of the house which was completed in 1838, and includes a number of outhouses as part of the estate. It looks out over the River Esk. Our visit coincided with a fabulous exhibition of Napoleon and Josephine memorabilia, on loan from a private Tasmanian collection. This exhibition highlighted the connections France had with Tasmania (Van Diemens Land) before British colonisation. We toured the house and gardens with very knowledgeable volunteer guides and enjoyed our lunch in the conservatory.

Doorway from the walled garden into the pleasure gardens



Clarendon House – built in 1830s



Garden Club members heading into the gardens

Dilston Windermere Swan Bay Garden Club's next gathering will be in June at Glebe Gardens. If you would like to be a part of Garden Club, please contact me or send an email to the address below. New members are very welcome.

Email: DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com Telephone: 0407 447 344

BEES IN THE GARDEN



Bumblebees do Buzz Pollination!

Bumblebees are large, fuzzy insects with short, stubby wings. They are larger than honeybees, but they don't produce as much honey. However, they are very important pollinators, and when I read an article in Live Science I realised I'd unjustly given them a bad rap previously.

While other animals pollinate, bees of course, as well as birds, and butterflies, bumblebees are particularly good at it. Their wings beat 130 times or more per second, according to the <u>National Wildlife Federation</u>, and the beating combined with their large bodies vibrates flowers until they release pollen, which is called buzz pollination. Buzz pollination helps plants produce more fruit.

It has often been said that bumblebees defy aerodynamics and should not be able to fly. However, a recent study resolved the enigma and showed how the tiny wings keep the bee in the air. The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2005, used high-speed photography to show that bumblebees flap their wings back and forth rather than up and down.

The wing sweeping is a bit like a partial spin of a "somewhat crappy" helicopter propeller, researcher Michael Dickinson, a professor of biology. and insect flight expert at the University of Washington, told Live Science in a 2011 article. However, the angle to the wing also creates vortices in the air — like small hurricanes. The eyes of those mini hurricanes have lower pressure than the surrounding air. Keeping those eddies of air above its wings helps keep them airborne. Bumblebees generate more heat, which allows them to work during cooler weather. Bumblebees don't die when they sting. This is trait found in honeybees. They are covered in an oil that makes them waterproof.

Photo source: Canva

CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

Services held every 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, NOW Commencing at 9:30am. (Note: The heaters are again working VERY effectively, so be assured of a cosy atmosphere in church even if the weather is outside is wintery.)

Some points of extra interest over the past 2 months include:

Several of our congregation helped at the Launceston Alive Easter Festival at Riverbend Park, assisting children understand and remember the Easter story by making "Good News" Key rings for school bags or whatever. The coloured beads represent, in order: Green- Creation, Black-our sin, Red-Jesus' death, White-forgiveness, Blue-the Holy Spirit, Gold-eternal life.

It was lovely to see one local Windermere resident share their Easter message on the roadside...





Retirement of Rev John Tongue: By the time of this publication, John and Shirley's time in our Parish will be over, as he retired at the end of May after arriving in Dec 2020 from Ulverstone into the position of Assistant Rector of the Holy Trinity Parish. He has had special responsibility during that time for St Matthias' Church, and has prayerfully and whole-heartedly supported our congregation since then. Ably assisted by his wife Shirley whose angelic voice has enhanced our music beautifully, and their 2 children Kimberley and Peter, they have led us through a very difficult period and breathed new life into Windermere despite the setbacks of COVID. The following year saw the development of our music group, the new catering cupboards, installation of gas heating and the success of our first Christmas Festival where John featured as the lead shepherd in the Nativity reenactment! They have encouraged and supported all St Matthias' initiatives, and our congregation has grown considerably under his steerage. There was a great turn-up for John's final StM service on May12th (which was also Mother's Day), and also a good crowd of St Matthias' folk at their parish retirement dinner, which was a wonderful event. We thank John and Shirley, and Peter and Kimberley for their time and service in the Parish and wish them well for the future.



Going forward, the service on the 2nd Sunday each month will be led by Rev Lee Shirvill and the service on the 4th Sunday will be led by Rev Ken Box and Rev Bob McKay on alternate months.

In previous years, we have organised a collection of warm clothing and non-perishable food over winter. As we no longer have the café as an extra drop-off point, we won't be doing that this year, but we do encourage you to donate what you can to Anglicare, Vinnies, City Mission etc as the need in the wider community is increasing.

Rev. Lee Shirvill 0468 489 068 Subscribe to our weekly Parish email newsletter, via a message to rector@htl.org.au, or Join our Facebook page stmatthiaswindermere for any important updates.



EAST TAMAR MENS SHED NEWS

We have had a busy few weeks at the Men's Shed as a core group of members under the expert guidance of our Vice President, Vic Cochrane have been constructing a mezzanine floor. This will enable timber to be stored out of the way, allowing much more bench space for working on projects.

It has been a very long process from the planning stage, (which actually started many years ago) to securing grants from the State Government, and the Australian Men's Shed Association. As we needed to obtain Council approval, plans were drawn up and generously donated by ARTAS architects. During the build, the prices of the steel and timber rose dramatically, but it is finally nearing completion, except for a steel safety rail made which is about to be installed



The stand out issue from the build, is the amount of expertise individual members of the Shed have brought to the process. This demonstrates one of the assets of the Shed in that the members have a range of skills, often brought from their previous employment or hobbies, which they are very willing to share and teach others. New members are always welcome.

A big thankyou to the SmokeSignals Committee for the generous grant towards our new heat pump which has replaced a very toxic and environmentally unfriendly gas heater. It has been much appreciated by members and the other groups that use our Shed meeting room.





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Dilston and Hillwood Fire Brigades

Tasmania Fire Service



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By letting us know, you will help to prevent false alarms!



Hillwood Anzac Day Dawn Service

Over a 120 people braved the cold and attended the dawn service at the Hillwood Fire Station. The service included wreath-laying ceremony by local groups and associations. Readings from Reverand Ian Wheeler and guest speaker Lindsay Millar and to finish a minute's silence to remember the sacrifices of those who served.

Wood Heaters Again...

With the colder months approaching chimney fires are situations that our local brigades deal with.

And while we spoke to this last episode, there have been a number of incidents in the Tasmanian community recently as a result of the cooler temperatures, that we thought we would cover it again!

The fires that occur are usually due to the buildup of flammable materials such as creosote. Creosote is a tar-like substance that can accumulate on the walls of chimneys and flues when wood or other organic materials are burned. When the buildup becomes thick enough, it can ignite and cause a chimney fire.

Preventing chimney fires involves regular maintenance, including annual chimney inspections and cleanings to remove any creosote buildup. Using seasoned wood and ensuring proper airflow in the chimney can also help reduce the risk of chimney fires.



Another fire risk in the colder months is drying clothes to near to a heater. To manage this risk.

Maintain a safe distance between the heater and any clothing or flammable material.

The Tasmania Fire Service recommends a minimum 2 meter gap, and definitely avoid placing clothes directly on or in front of the heater.

Use dedicated drying racks and clotheslines away from heaters is a safe way to dry clothes safely inside.

As always, if you would like some advice on these or other fire safety tips, don't forget to reach out to us!

TFS Winter Campaign

...has kicked off again and the best place to find information particulary on home fire safety tips is via the TFS website, and facebook page.



.../DilstonFireBrigade .../TasmaniaFireService **Dilston Fire Brigade Contacts**

 Raoul Stow
 0417 351 423

 Paul Blakie
 0417 592 424

 Ben Jones
 0417 877 001

 Ken Nolan
 0448 320 996

Hillwood Fire Brigade Contacts

Elaine Burns 0417 540 665
Sharon Clarke 0417 600 571
Leon Hodges 0409 169 288
Andy Kendall 0427 818 282







A great Anzac day dawn service was held at the Hillwood Memorial, right outside the Hillwood Fire Station.

Appreciation goes out to the flag bearers, and the younger ones who braved the early morning start to give thanks to those that laid down their lives for those living today.

Lest We Forget.

HILLWOOD NEWS

YOUNG ACHIEVERS: JAMES HAWES. Well, I have written quite a few times about James Hawes for soccer and now he has made a change from soccer to Football. James, who lives at Piper's River and is therefore closer to George Town, had a good write-up in the Examiner recently. James, who is now following in his father's footsteps (his father played for George Town and other NTFA clubs) has found he has made a good choice because he has appeared in the Saint's best in three of the first four matches this season and best player against Bridgenorth in round three. He has played in a top-tier soccer competition and is now playing in a high level footy one. Go James!

TOM DONNELLY who plays now for Norwood Football Club in South Australia, was chosen in the South Australian Team to fly to Western Australia to play the Western Australian team. He played on his 25th birthday in jumper No 25. He must have played well if you listened to the commentators. We agreed with them. And South Australia won nicely!

OLIVER AND PIERS NICHOLLS, sons of Kathryn and grandsons of Merilyn and Lindsay Millar, recently performed in the musical Strictly Ballroom for Launceston Grammar at the Princess Theatre. Oliver (left) was the main male character, Scott and Piers (right) his rival Ken. Absolutely wonderful performance. Congratulations, boys. We are proud of you.



HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB: Our Women's team are performing well this year. All wins so far. Enjoy, girls. You have made a difference to our Club.

Now that the season is open, player's teas are held on Thursday nights. This is a chance for the community who are always welcome. Come along from before six o'clock to enjoy the company, the meal and a drink with friends. And enjoy a meal that you don't have to cook. Order and pay at the bar, collect from canteen. The \$400 raffle is at 8 o'clock and is streamed live on their Facebook page.

Hillwood Ladies Day: 22nd June Starting at 12:30pm A Day filled with fun, love, yummy food, games and plenty of laughs as we watch our Hillwood Reserves and Seniors take on Bracknell. Tickets on sale via Instagram bio and Hillwood Shark Football Facebook page.

What's on at the MEDITATION CENTRE: 362 Hillwood Road

ZUMBA classes have a change of venue and are now being held at the Meditation Centre. Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm & Sundays at the new time of 8am. \$10 per session. Check out the Hillwood Zumba Facebook page for further details.

Yoga: Mondays 5:45pm-7pm

Meditation: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays at 10:30am-11:45am, Saturdays at 9:00 -9:45am

Not Church: Sundays 9:30am-10:15am

Active Chakras: Saturday 8:25 – 8:55am Open Tuturial: Saturdays 9:45am – 10:45am

Monthly Mental Health: 3-5pm Monthly (Saturdays 29 June, 27 July, 24 August, 21September)

Soul Searching 2-4pm Monthly (Sundays 30 June, 28 July, 25 August, 22 September). For further information see Hillwood Road Meditation Skills Centre Facebook page.

Hillwood Ladies Group: is held on Wednesday's at 10am till 12pm. Gaylene Laverty, 0418590564, is the co-ordinator. Come along to meet your neighbours, have a chat, people bring their knitting or craftwork or just chat. Bingo once per month. Bring a gift, win a gift. Occasionally, we go out for lunch.

HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB

At its recent meeting members discussed the following circulated by one of its members: "50 ideas to jog your creativity, including something for every season" including: Keep a garden journal, map your garden, work out a simple crop rotation, list the bird species you see in the garden, go into your garden and write down the first thing that comes to you, press a flower and tape it into your journal, write about what you learned from a gardening mistake, list three ways that gardening benefits you and your family. She then handed out pens and pencils plus some beautiful tactile gumnuts, pieces of bark and dried flower heads and invited members to draw them.

The Hillwood Garden Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Hillwood Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. The next meeting will be on 17 June. All Welcome.

Sue Overton, Secretary 63948127/0467670897





It had been discussed that our large white acoustic boards in the hall could do with some colour for ANZAC DAY So, with the help of google and our enthusiastic volunteers, Sue Overton, Kat Millar, Jo Osborne, Geraldine Goodwin and myself, we decided to have a go. I must say I was very pleased with the results.







A welcome addition to the Hillwood War Memorial Hall was completed on the same day as paint the poppies. Good timing to be able to catch a photo of Harley from Harding's Group when he completed the signage for Disability Parking.

Right: Pleased to be able to park up close is Lindsay Millar, one of the first to use this much needed signage and space.



ANZAC DAY

As always it takes a lot of volunteers to make a community event successful, and it is evident that the community view ANZAC Day as an important day of remembrance. Thank you to guest speaker, Lindsay Millar who researched past Hillwood Resident Phillip Miller's service with the RAAF. A very interesting and informative talk. A large crowd attended the Dawn Service at the Hillwood Fire Shed with over 80 people making their way down to the Hall for Breakfast.

The breakfast is free but a donation towards the following years breakfast is requested. Any money raised over and above the cost of running the breakfast is donated to charity. Last year we donated the funds to the Royal Flying Doctors for their mental health work in the area. A raffle was held to assist the fundraising. Thanks to:

East Tamar Men's Shed for their Games Table, Signal Station Tavern \$50 voucher, Paul Herron of Hillwood Whisky for Sample bottle of Whisky, Michael Carey for Bark Mulch, Marigold's Café for Coffee and Cake Vouchers, Anne Green of Green Flower Farm for Flowers, Geoff Carr for 2 bottles of Hillwood Wines Chardonnay, Heather Ferguson for Zumba Classes, and Julie Airey for a Crotched Blanket.

Thank you to all those who helped, setting up the day before as well as on the day. Many hands make light work and there is a job for everyone, from setting up the tables to stapling the rosemary on the orders of service.





Alan Hunt and Jen Parish setting up tables and chairs.



Conor Kaukenas, Julie Airey & Elaine Burns, staple the rosemary on the order of service.



Ruth Fuller and Robyn Marsh serve up to Sue Whittington.

Thank you to all those not pictured here as well, you know who you are. Your many years of service are greatly appreciated, and we would struggle to do it without you!

The History Room was open on the day and with research being done all the time there is always something new to find. Members recently had a drive around with heritage architect Gayle Plunkett (working for the George Town Council) highlighting places of significant historical interest in the area. If you would like to make a time to view some of our interesting items and stories, ring Julie Airey on 0408 275 539

HEALTHY HILLWOOD



Healthy Hillwood Exercises, run though the George Town Council's Healthy George Town program. Sessions are currently running on Fridays @ 11am. Entry is free.

We currently have two Street Libraries in Hillwood. One at the Hall and the other near the Pontoon opposite the Café. A symbol of trust and hope, take a book, give a book. As expected, we see more books leaving than arriving. If you have any spare books, feel free to deposit in them in the libraries. Keep in mind with our unpredictable weather, all books need to go inside the box!

Let's keep our community reading!



George Town Roadshow – was held at the Hillwood Hall on Wednesday 15th May 2024.

The George Town Council hold roadshows across the municipality annually. The council share their upcoming projects, share new initiatives and ideas, and it's a chance for the community to engage in and find out what's being planned in our area. The Hillwood Open Space Plan was presented with feedback closing 29th May.

HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S Next general meeting: Tuesday 11th June 7pm at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall. What would you like to see happening in Hillwood? If you are interested in being involved in the community or would just like to have a voice on what you would like to see happening in our area, come along and have a say.

We are now an organisational member of the Neighbourhood Watch, a community-based crime prevention program which aims to improve the quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties. All going well, we are hoping to have a representative from the George Town Police attend with a crime report and to answer any queries.

One of the best ways to reduce crime is to connect with your neighbours. I thought you might like this photo of Hillwood neighbours Nancy Donnelly and Lindsay Miller enjoying their 90th birthdays recently.



Good Neighbours Create Safer Communities



SAVE THE DATES:

HPA AGM & General Meeting Tuesday 10th September 7pm HPA Trivia Night Saturday 19th October

For upcoming events keep an eye on our chalkboards, or for more information contact Robyn Wheeler 0409420877 or check out our Hillwood Progress Association Facebook page.

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Community Contacts

FIRE:000

Dilston Fire Brigade Raoul Stow 0417 351 423

Hillwood Fire Brigade Elaine Burns 0417 540 665

SES 132 500

Marigolds Cafe Hillwood 6311 0686

Dilston Hall

Launceston Council

St Matthias Church

June: 0411 567 029 Jenny:0419 544 266

Playgroup Corrie Summers 0448 259 863

Dilston/Swan Bay/Windermere Garden Club

Kerri: 0407 447 344

East Tamar Mens Shed Secretary:: George Cerchez

secretary@etms.org.au

Book Discussion Group

Jess: 0428 658 988

Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au

Scrabble Group Kerri, 0407 447 344

Justice of The Peace Nick Jones: 0439 986 698

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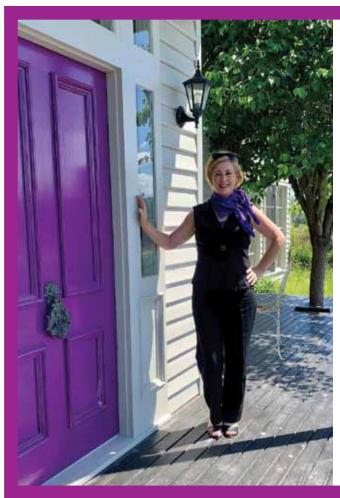
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